



British UFO Research Association

Newchapel Observatory, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire

A
GUIDE TO THE
U.F.O. PHENOMEN

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THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES

HISTORY OF BUFORA

by I.E. Beer & J. Cleary-Baker PhD

The British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA) traces its origins directly back to the London U.F.O. Research Organisation (LUFORO), which was founded by four researchers in July 1959. LUFORO's original aims included forming a national and international federation of UFO societies. Largely through the efforts of one of its founders, Nigel Stephenson, LUFORO brought together seven other societies including the Scottish UFO Research Society to inaugurate The British U.F.O. Association (BUFOA) on 22nd September 1962. It is worth noting that of those founder-societies, The British Flying Saucer Bureau, based in Bristol, was founded in 1952, and one of its members, Graham Knewstubb, an electrical engineer research scientist, was the Association's first president. For administrative reasons, LUFORO merged with BUFOA on 25th January 1964, and was reconstituted as The British U.F.O. Research Association, under an eight-point programme and a constitution drawn up by John Cleary-Baker. During its four and a half years of existence, LUFORO regularly published LUFORO BULLETIN, and BUFOA saw two editions of BUFOA JOURNAL before both were merged into BUFORA JOURNAL AND BULLETIN. The "AND BULLETIN" has now been dropped for simplicity. Ten years later, encouraged by its Chairman, Roger Stanway, BUFORA explored the benefits which would accrue from Company status and on 24th November, 1975 became a Company Limited by Guarantee.

BUFORA's basic aims remain as they were originally formulated:

- (1) To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation into Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena.
- (2) To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
- (3) To co-ordinate UFO research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

BUFORA continues to have the support of autonomous member-societies, in addition to its individual members, and, by resolving its problems internally, BUFORA has enjoyed administrative stability. Consequently, it has been able to study and evaluate a wide range of reported UFO phenomena, and has built up a nation-wide team of investigators amongst its membership. However, the Association cannot afford to be complacent and there is still a need for competent people to cover some of the less populated parts of the United Kingdom at short notice.

Through the years the Association has endeavoured to provide lectures for cultural, business and educational groups, and members have appeared on radio and television from time to time. Regular monthly meetings have been held in central London, interspersed with occasional regional conferences. In January 1969, the Association mounted a large stand at the New Year Show at Olympia (courtesy of the Daily Mail) where it was possible for it to meet the public face to face. BUFORA and its predecessors have endeavoured to co-operate mutually with the press, and "silly season" stories are becoming a matter of the past. Efforts to give UFO research a respectable image, despite the activities of certain quasi-religious organisations, seems to be paying off, and it is gratifying to find that BUFORA is frequently treated as "a member of the establishment."

Reports of UFOs continue to reach BUFORA daily, and while this situation continues, there is a constant need to review the existing techniques of investigation, evaluation and research in order to further encourage the interest of the scientific community in this country.

This "Guide to the UFO Phenomenon" is published by BUFORA Ltd. in the furtherance of its aims and objectives.

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INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects is a fascinating scientific enigma. Its characteristic elusiveness causes frequent feelings of bewilderment and exasperation in even the most experienced investigator and researcher.

The reality of the UFO phenomenon is no longer seriously questioned by those who have troubled to take more than a cursory glance at the existing global evidence. Those Scientists and Governments who have admitted their concern with UFOs agree that in general approximately 10% of all UFO reports cannot be satisfactorily explained. The current controversy relates to the crucial question - Would additional investigation and research reveal a natural or manufactured explanation for this mystifying 10% of reports? The official Governmental and scientific answer to this question is a wholly unfounded "YES". Unfounded because the answer is based on a false assumption and not the true facts. The false assumption is that there must surely be a natural explanation for UFO reports; there cannot possibly be a global phenomenon the very existence and nature of which is unknown to man in his present age of technological achievement. This is a patently dangerous assumption which has often proved to be the cause of considerable embarrassment within scientific circles at practically every stage of mankind's development.

So much for the false assumption, what about the facts:-

- FACT 1. There has been so far only a negligible amount of official scientific investigation into the UFO phenomenon (at least publicly).
- FACT 2. The little official investigation that has been conducted has failed to satisfactorily explain the baffling 10% of reports.
- FACT 3. The UFO phenomenon eventually gained its long overdue scientific respectability in November 1971 when the prestigious American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) officially recommended the renewed scientific study of UFOs.
- FACT 4. In common with other serious national UFO Research Associations in other parts of the world, BUFORA continues its policy of drawing the attention of laymen and scientists alike to the challenge of the UFO phenomenon.

I do hope the following pages will prove helpful and thought-provoking for those who may be new to this intriguing subject. If this is so, the publication of this booklet will have been amply justified. There are many facets to the phenomenon and these pages can only really serve to stimulate and arouse the curiosity of the reader. If you wish to learn more about UFOs, and the scientific quest for the truth, please do not hesitate to contact either BUFORA or the appropriate Research Association in your part of the world. We would be very glad to help you with information, advice and recommended reading.

Roger H. Stanway, MBA, FRAS,
Chairman, BUFORA.

THE U.F.O PHENOMENON

1. DEFINITION

In their final report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1968, the University of Colorado study group defined a UFO in the following manner:-

"An unidentified flying objects (UFO pronounced OOF0) is the stimulus for a report made by one or more individuals of something seen in the sky (or an object thought to be capable of flight but seen when landed on the earth) which the observer could not identify as having an ordinary natural origin, and which seemed to him sufficiently puzzling that he undertook to make a report of it to police, to government officials, to the press, or perhaps to a representative of a private organisation devoted to the study of such objects."

Taken strictly in the literal sense this definition suggests that any artifact observed in the sky must be a UFO, and would have been more accurate had it read ... "as having an ordinary natural or artificial origin." Couched in these terms the stimuli for UFO reports can have many and diverse origins in misinterpreted natural atmospheric and celestial phenomena, for example cloud formations, ball lightning, bolides and planets, and in commonly misidentified man-made devices including aircraft, balloons and satellites. In certain cases, of course the stimulus is not even a real one. Statistically 9 out of 10 UFO reports belong to these categories.

While this may be considered a valid definition in very general terms the British U.F.O. Research Association has come to define more clearly and precisely the object of its researches. Though naturally investigations are carried out of all alleged UFO sightings which come to our attention, we are principally concerned with the study of those reports which are not only puzzling to the observer, but also to the persons technically and scientifically qualified to evaluate them. These reports which defy explanation in normal terms, resisting all attempts to establish their origins as misperceived natural phenomena or man-made devices constitute the small residue of cases characterised by both a high degree of credibility and high strangeness which describe unidentifiable flying objects.

It is worthy of mention that most researchers pronounce UFO as YEWFO and not OOF0 as the Condon Committee 'instructs'.

2. NATURE

UFOs are generally an aerial phenomenon, a fact which has been recorded from ground based visual observations, by pilots and the passengers of aircraft, by radar installations, from photographs and even by astronauts in orbit above the atmosphere. There are many hundreds of cases however where UFOs have been reported to land on the earth and take off again, while in certain instances reports describe them entering or leaving the oceans of the world.

The global nature of the UFO phenomenon is a fact which has been established over the last 25 years from the distinctive appearance and behavioural patterns which run through and characterise thousands of inexplicable reports originating from every part of the world. Identical objects have been observed and even photographed, the reports of which are separated by years in time and by many thousands of miles in their location.

Perhaps its most frustrating feature is the transient nature of the phenomenon. More often than not manifestations are short lived, some lasting for fractions of an hour and others for no more than a few seconds. As a consequence we are faced with having to investigate the reports of UFO sightings and not directly the UFOs themselves.

UFOs present an unconventional and highly complex phenomenon. Their appearance in many instances affords the impression of "craft-like" or "machine-like" aerial devices under systematic control. In design, often wingless discs or cigar-shaped objects, they are completely unlike conventional aircraft and their performance characteristics equally as unparalleled. UFOs appear to defy the laws of physics AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM.

The late Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, the University of Arizona, in this statement before the Committee of Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, July 29th 1968, summarised the problem:-

"The UFO problem is so unconventional, involves such improbable events, such inexplicable phenomenology, so defies ready explanation in terms of present-day scientific knowledge, has such a curiously elusive quality in many respects, that it is not surprising (given certain features in the past twenty years handling of the problem) that scientists have not taken it seriously. We scientists are, as a group, not too well-orientated towards taking up problems that lie, not just on the frontiers of our scientific knowledge, but far across some gulf whose very breadth cannot be properly estimated."

If the question of UFOs is a scientific one then within the rigid and exacting disciplines of science the potential researcher will require both quantitative and qualitative data.

3. EVIDENCE

What evidence have we for UFOs? Can we prove they exist and moreover can we determine their true nature and origin? In the forward to his book, "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects" 1956, Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of the U.S. Air Force Project Blue Book asks "What constitutes proof? Does a UFO have to land at the River Entrance to the Pentagon, near the Joint Chiefs of Staff offices? Or is it proof when a ground radar station detects a UFO, sends a jet to intercept it, the jet pilot sees it, and locks on with his radar, only to have the UFO streak away at a phenomenal speed? Is it proof when a jet pilot fires at a UFO and sticks to his story even under the threat of court-martial? Does this constitute proof?"

In a court of law, on the accumulated evidence the case for the UFO would have been proven many times. The testimony of witnesses and circumstantial evidence are sufficient to bring in this verdict.

But what of scientific evidence. To describe a new phenomenon requires the collection of many of its qualitative and quantitative aspects. Unfortunately in a great number of UFO sightings the amount, type and quality of scientific data have been insufficient even to describe the event with any degree of accuracy or to identify it with a known classification, let alone class the event as a new phenomenon.

The scientist will ask why the paucity of scientific data, and yet it is science which has ignored the problems for 25 years. Dr. McDonald has mentioned the scientists' dilemma, a dilemma which is not new or restricted to the phenomenon in hand. The well known and often quoted example from history of science's negative

attitude towards the reports of meteorite falls during the 18th Century shows clearly how the establishment of that day tended to ignore the facts because "they did not make sense". Besides this most reports were made by the casual observer - the non-scientist, and therefore not reliable.

In the case of meteorites, as we know today, history had the last laugh, and yet now faced with a "parallel" set of circumstances the evidence for UFOs by virtue of its origin in lay observations is scorned and scoffed at as unreal.

It is because of its random and unpredictable nature that the bulk of evidence for the phenomenon stems from the testimony of eye witnesses. This type of evidence suffers unfortunately from human error and is subjective to one degree or another. Although the senses are quite remarkable in their capabilities they are poor recorders of scientific data. But should we then ignore all but the scientific observer, as in the case of meteorites? No, we cannot dismiss these lay reports out of hand. As Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, then Director of U.S. Air Force Intelligence put it at a 1952 Pentagon press conference, "Credible observers have sighted relatively incredible objects." Evaluating the credibility of witnesses is itself a problem and in many cases though the UFO sighting is of "high strangeness" there is but a single witness to the event. On the other hand the reliability of the details of any report is greatly enhanced when these details are corroborated by a number of independently located observers. Records show that witnesses are from all walks of life and from every part of the globe, and in most cases their observations were a fortuitous event. Since eyewitness reports form the bulk of UFO evidence, these describe the whole spectrum of recorded UFO events.

The most commonly reported are the "lights in the sky" or nocturnal meandering lights which in spite of their great abundance are the least significant and scientifically useful category of UFOs. A second category, in Dr. Hynek's terminology are the "Daylight Discs", which though they are not necessarily all disc-shaped, are observed at moderate distances during daylight hours, and give the impression of a solid, and in many cases metallic-looking object of unconventional design. Far more interesting is a third category including close range sightings of what are generally described as wingless discs and cigar-shaped objects. These reports describe structural details such as "ports", "doors", and "legs" (the terms used by witnesses which suggest most closely features they believe they have observed.) It is in this category that landed UFOs are to be found and descriptions of their "operators" or "pilots". A fourth class of UFO is represented by close-range night time sightings of glowing, hovering objects, often with blinking or pulsating lights. Usually a distinct shape is not seen, evidently in some cases due to the brilliance of the lights. Less significant scientifically than the preceding category, they are none the less difficult to account for in terms of any known type of vehicle. These four groups are certainly not exhaustive of the many UFO events encountered but they do constitute the most common observational types reported.

Besides the mass of eyewitness accounts there is a comparatively small but significantly more valuable source of evidence which has been recorded by instrumentation or which is scientifically measurable. Radar sightings are important amongst these other sources of evidence. Probably the best known of these is the Lakenheath, England radar-visual case of 13th/14th August 1956. (Flying Saucer Review, Vol. 16 No. 2). The optical/radar chapter of The Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects contains the following statement about the case. "In summary, this is the most puzzling and unusual case in the radar-visual files. The apparently rational, intelligent behaviour of the UFO suggests a mechanical device of unknown origin as the most probable explanation of this sighting."

Photographs of UFOs, usually combined with visual sightings, if authentic can provide additional scientific evidence. Two well known cases of this type are those of Santa Ana, California of 3rd August, 1965 and of McMinnville, Oregon, 11th May, 1950. See plates 1 & 2.

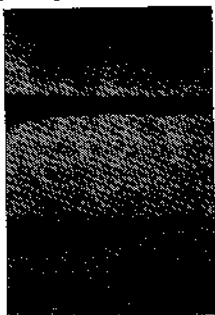


PLATE 1 One of the three photographs of a metallic-looking disc taken by traffic investigator Rex Heflin at Santa Ana, California, on 3rd August, 1965.

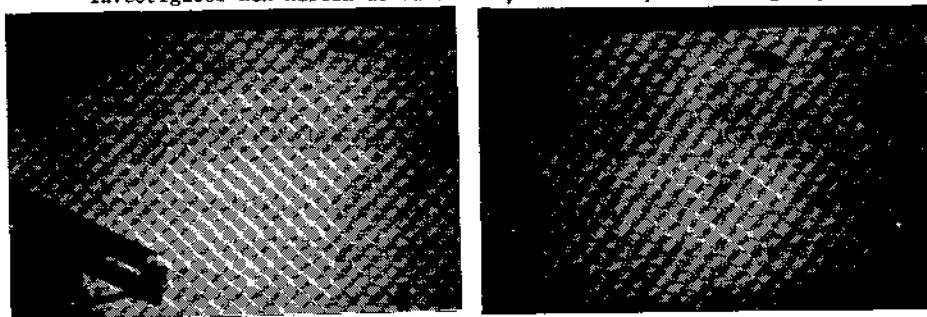


PLATE 2 Two different views of a disc-shaped UFO observed and photographed at McMinnville, Oregon on 11th May 1950 (The lines on the bottom photograph are merely for analysis purposes).

In the former case Traffic Investigator Heflin while on duty observed that his two-way radio cut off just before a metallic-looking disc moved across the road in front of him. Three photographs were taken before the object moved off after emitting a smoke ring. He then drive about a mile down the road and photographed the ring. In addition to the highly unusual shape of the UFO portrayed in the photographs, two other strange characteristics were evidently present, the first being the apparent effect on the vehicle radio and the second the emission of the ring of "smoke".

In the McMinnville incident the witness reportedly observed a metallic-looking disc-shaped UFO. She called her husband and after locating their camera he took two photographs of the object before it disappeared into the distance. In the concluding remarks of this case, The Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects states, "This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological and physical appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disc-shaped, tens of metres in diameter, and evidently artificial flew within sight of two witnesses. It cannot be said that the evidence positively rules out a fabrication although there are some physical factors such as the accuracy of certain photo-metric measures of the original negatives which argue against a fabrication."

Physical effects on the environment by the close approach or landing of UFOs offer, more than any other type of evidence (except physical evidence or "hardware"), the most potential for scientific measurement. There is on record a wide variety of physical effects which include the so called "electro-magnetic effects" (causing ignition and lights failures of vehicles, general interference with radio and television receivers, and other electrical and electronic equipment, magnetisation of materials including watches and so on), psychological effects on witnesses especially where these were in close proximity to a landed UFO, (e.g. mild radiation exposure producing a reddening of the skin comparable to sunburn,) and depressions, burnt marks, disturbed and dead vegetation on the ground. US researcher Ted Phillips, having made an exhaustive study of this aspect of UFO manifestations has produced a book devoted to physical traces associated with UFO sightings. Diagram 1, shows a sketch of depressions, burn marks and "foot prints" at the site of a UFO landing at Socorro, New Mexico on April 24th, 1964. (W.T. Powers report in "The Humanoids" by Charles Bowen). A police officer witnessed the take off of an unidentified aluminium coloured machine which had landed with a roar and had made a similar noise as it ascended.

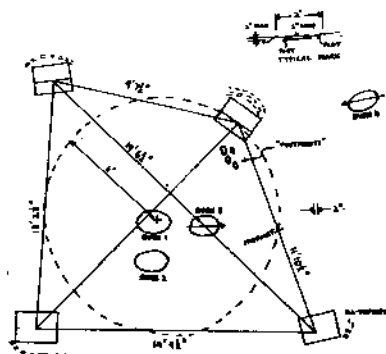


Diagram 1 A drawing of the Socorro landing site. New Mexico 24th April, 1964. The rectangular features indicate the four depressions allegedly made by the landing gear of the UFO. Burnt areas and footprints are also shown. (W.T. Powers report in "The Humanoids" by Charles Bowen, 1969).

Other physical effects though much rarer comprise cases of residual radiation, of apparent microwave destruction of vegetation and of "residues" recovered from the site of landed UFOs.

4. CHARACTERISTICS

The reported characteristics of UFOs are far too numerous and complex to be detailed in a booklet of this nature, indeed they would require a many volumed encyclopaedia to describe adequately the extraordinary and inexplicable features which characterise UFO reports. We must therefore satisfy ourselves here by describing briefly the more common of these features encountered.

The outward appearance of UFOs alone is sufficiently unusual to distinguish them from conventional flying machines such as aircraft and helicopters. The most frequently reported shapes include discus, or "lens-shaped", flat disc or "coin-like", discoid with dome, "saucer-shaped", "hat-shaped", "saturn-shaped", "double domed" disc, hemispherical disc, flattened sphere, spherical (from all angles) elliptical or "egg-shaped", triangular - "tear-drop", cylindrical or cigar-shaped, and star-like.

Additional details sometimes reported particularly by witnesses in close proximity with UFOs include "portholes", "windows", "doors" projections, body lights, "legs" or "landing gear".

As with recorded UFO shapes the sizes and colours described are multifarious. In eye-witness accounts it is often difficult to determine size; however reports range from 12 inches or less to 300 feet or even more in diameter for discoid objects, and up to some thousands of feet in length for large cylindrical objects.

Reported colours encompass the whole range of the spectrum. During daylight or twilight hours UFOs are often described as silver or metallic, white or with a reflective surface, grey or as a silhouette (dark or black). In darkness UFOs have the unique ability to "glow" brightly, red being the most frequent colour followed by orange, yellow, green and blue. At the same time there is evidence of emission of radiation (already described), outside the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum. On occasions colours may change from one to another or increase in intensity with landing or take off, or with violent manoeuvres. UFOs often carry lights of varying colours and instances of "beams" emitted by them are not uncommon.

At a distance UFOs are usually silent. At close quarters witnesses have reported humming sounds like a swarm of bees, or an electric generator. Other sounds include "whistling" and "whirring".

The motion of UFOs and their reported manoeuvres cannot be paralleled by present-day conventional aircraft and strongly suggests that these objects are the products of advanced technologies. All appear to have the common ability to combat gravity and inertia as if these are non-existent. Tremendous rates of acceleration and deceleration and various violent manoeuvres have been observed and tracked on radar. Also recorded are "pendulum", "floating", or "falling-leaf" motions. UFOs have at times shown the ability to hover motionless, to follow, lead or negotiate aircraft, ships, motorised vehicles or other man-made or natural objects as if under some form of intelligent control. UFOs have been seen singly, in pairs or in threes or more, and occasionally in formation. Often a large cylindrical object is accompanied by one or more smaller discoid objects. On various occasions one or more discoid objects have been seen to appear or disappear when in the immediate vicinity of a larger cylindrical object. Speeds in excess of 10,000 m.p.h. have been recorded on radarscopes.

Physical effects caused by the close approach or landing of UFOs are many and various and have been described briefly under Evidence of UFOs.

It has been suggested, on the evidence, that some UFOs are under systematic or "intelligent" control, on the other hand one could speculate that all UFOs need not necessarily contain "intelligent" beings. There are however hundreds of fully documented accounts from all parts of the world of alleged sightings of or contacts with occupants of UFOs. These occupants have been variously described, but the interesting fact which has emerged from comparative studies is that the majority of witnesses reported "humanoids".

This short section can only touch on the major reported characteristics of the UFO phenomenon, but even in this brief introduction the reader will hopefully begin to appreciate the extraordinary nature of the subject and its complexity. The scientific community has been seriously misinformed for the past twenty years about the potential importance of UFOs. This phenomenon is indeed a unique challenge to science!

5. HOW BUFORA INVESTIGATES

BUFORA investigates all significant reports of UFO sightings through its investigations Section. The functions of this group are:-

- (i) the interviewing of witnesses to obtain data on UFO phenomena,
- (ii) the sifting of such data into reliable and unreliable, and significant and insignificant categories,
- (iii) the appraisal of reliable and significant data with the expectation of identifying them as normal events,
- (iv) investigation in depth of the small number of apparently unidentifiable phenomena, followed by the preparation of reports for submission to a panel of expert evaluators, and
- (v) to assist the work of the panel in selecting and preparing for scientific publication, reports which justify such action by the quality of their data, the nature of their conclusions and the scientific interest likely to be engendered.

The first stage, of obtaining basic data, is undertaken by a body of investigators drawn from ordinary members who have expressed an interest in this work. They require no high level of training, but need objectivity, keenness, tact and patience in handling witnesses, and above all, commonsense and integrity. These investigators are organised into sixteen geographical regions, throughout the British Isles, each of which will eventually be under the direction of a Regional Co-ordinator. At the head of the Section is a National Investigations Co-ordinator responsible for the administration of the Section, for ensuring that Sightings are promptly and adequately investigated, and, in due course, for the collation and preparation of the final reports.

On receiving notification of a Sighting, the NIC notifies such facts as are known to the appropriate Regional Co-ordinator, who allots the nearest, suitable investigator to the case. The investigator calls on the witnesses, interviews them carefully, possibly tape-recording the conversations, visits the site, and assists the witnesses in filling up a standard Sighting Report Form with all relevant data and sketches.

The second stage, the sifting of data, is primarily carried out at Investigator level by recording the reliability characteristics of witnesses, the probability of accuracy in the observation, and any special factors which affect the credibility of the case. The Regional Co-ordinator on receiving a preliminary report from an Investigator, may request additional information until he is satisfied that as full a report as possible has been obtained, and then forwards a final report to the NIC. The latter classifies incoming reports and picks out those of particular significance for investigation in depth, obtains the assistance of experts in specialised fields where necessary, and, ultimately, produces a report suitable for evaluation.

6. SEARCH FOR EXPLANATIONS

It is the world-wide experience of investigators of UFO phenomena that ninety five per cent of so-called sightings can be explained in terms of natural events or man-made objects, misinterpreted by witnesses through unusual situations or lack of knowledge. Such natural events include the viewing of the planets Venus, Jupiter and Mars during their brighter phases, meteors, fire-balls and unusual clouds and other meteorological effects. Man-made objects may include brightly reflecting satellites, aircraft in unusual orientations (such as when the viewer is in line with the exhaust, or looking straight into the landing lights), meteorological and other balloons, flares of many kinds, and, more recently, chemical clouds released into the ionosphere.

The function of an investigator, on being put in charge of a Sighting, therefore, is to take all possible steps to identify the object or event. An experienced Investigator will be able to do this in about half the cases he undertakes, although it will often prove difficult to convince an excited, but unsophisticated, witness of his conclusion. In the remaining cases, expert assistance may be needed involving such contacts as Airport Controllers, Meteorological Offices, Compilers of Satellite Statistics, Observatories and Scientific Bodies conducting experiments above the atmosphere.

When an investigation has been undertaken there is always the hope that it will prove to be one of the rare cases to be classified as unidentifiable. This may be so because the quality of the data is too low grade for a reliable interpretation to be made; such sightings have to be ignored. On the other hand, if unidentifiable in the classic sense, the object described may be so strange as to be outside the normal range of human experience. This is the type of sighting that justifies the existence of BUFORA, and requires the most intensive study.

In such exceptional cases, further factors have to be considered such as the psychological background of the witnesses, whether they have previously been subject to hallucinations, the premonitory illusions of epilepsy, or even whether they claim a previous psychic experience. Only when all these possibilities have been examined, and after eliminating all natural phenomena and man-made objects, can it be stated that a case advances our knowledge of Unidentified Flying Objects. The possibility that one case, eventually will provide irrefutable evidence of an advanced technology, beyond the range of human development, is the spur which motivates many researchers.

7. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The Association has recently set up a Panel of Evaluators to whom selected reports will be submitted for a final appraisal. Its members have a scientific background and training, and long experience of UFO investigation. As BUFORA grows in stature and recognition as a scientifically orientated body, it is hoped to draw into this work scientists from a wide range of disciplines so as to cover all aspects of the investigated phenomena.

The work of the Panel will be threefold,

- (i) to advise the investigations Section where it considers that further information should be obtained, particularly where channels have been overlooked or technical data inadequately compiled,
- (ii) to study adequately investigated, but unidentified, cases, and to seek to reach an agreed identification, and
- (iii) to select cases which are suitable for scientific publication, and to advise on the preparation and placing of papers and articles.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that recognition of the importance of our subject by Scientific Institutions and by Governments, will only be achieved by the most painstaking investigation, checked and rechecked at every stage, and compiled with full adherence to the tenets of scientific method.

8. ARE SCIENTISTS INTERESTED?

The short answer is "YES". The climate of opinion has been changing dramatically in recent years. The scientific community has ceased to contemptuously ignore the UFO phenomenon. In the past and in various parts of the world, there have been several notable individual exceptions to the general scientific disinterest. Sur-

prising as it may seem, such scientists have usually been brave and eminent enough to risk the scorn and ridicule of their less open minded colleagues which would certainly jeopardise the careers of younger and less respected men. Prominent examples of such scientists of high repute are given below:-

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Professor of Astronomy, Northwestern University Illinois, who, until 1969, spent 21 years as Consultant to the U.S. Air Force on UFOs. Hynek is unquestionably the world's leading authority on UFOs and although originally a sceptic, he is now urging the scientific community to study the phenomenon in depth.

Dr. James E. McDonald was, until his death in 1971, Professor of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona, U.S.A. McDonald was a prolific writer and brilliant researcher of UFO cases and frequently lectured to major scientific Associations. He was an outspoken advocate of the seriousness of the UFO problem.

Dr. Miran Lindtner was, until his death in 1969, Senior Scientist at the Veterinary Research Institute, New South Wales, Australia. He was active in soliciting scientific interest in UFOs in Australasia.

Dr. Donald J. Menzel, Astronomer and Astrophysicist; Director of the Harvard College Observatory and a prominent critic of UFO Researchers.

Dr. John Taylor, Professor of Mathematics at Kings College, London and holder of chairs of mathematics at Southampton University and Rutgers University USA. Author of BLACK HOLES: THE SHAPE OF MINDS TO COME and other works.

Dr. Harley Rutledge, Chairman of Physics at S.E. Missouri State University, who, together with a team of six other scientists, initiated 'Project Identification' in Missouri following massive UFO activity there in 1974: this included extensive instrumental scrutiny by land and air. Dr. Rutledge emphasised that the UFOs and/or their occupants seemed to know exactly what his team were doing: there had been many instances where a light 'went out' or an object 'suddenly disappeared' when about to be photographed.

In 1966 a team of civilian scientists, under the Directorship of Dr. Edward U. Condon at Colorado University, were commissioned by the U.S.A. Air Force to make a detailed study of the UFO phenomenon. Their project report was published in 1969. Inter alia, Dr. Condon concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby". However, it is encouraging that Dr. Condon also stated that "we believe that any scientist with adequate training and credentials who does come up with a clearly defined specific proposal for study should be supported". The negative findings and conclusions of Dr. Condon and his team is now receiving a barrage of criticism from the better informed scientists all over the world. Following nationwide criticism of the Colorado Project in "LOOK" magazine on 30th April, 1968, unprecedented hearings on UFOs were held by the U.S.A. House of Representatives' Science and Astronautics Committee on 29th July, 1968. Six distinguished scientists formed the symposium panel, namely:-

Dr. J. Allen Hynek - Professor of Astronomy, Northwestern University.

Dr. James E. McDonald - Senior Atmospheric Physicist, Arizona University.

Dr. Carl Sagan - Department of Astronomy and Centre for Radiophysics and Space Research, Cornell University

Dr. Robert L. Hall - Professor of Sociology, Illinois University

Dr. James A. Harder - Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, University of California at Berkeley

Dr. Robert M.L. Baker Jr. - Computer Sciences Corp and Department of Engineering, UCLA

Six other scientists submitted detailed discussions. Conclusion: All but one (Dr. Menzel) urged a new, completely unbiased scientific investigation. One scientist even suggested a Congressional Investigation of the Colorado Project.

December 1969, Boston, U.S.A. The scientific momentum builds up. A General Symposium of UFOs was held on this date by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Fourteen scientists participated including Drs. Hynek, McDonald, Thornton Page and Sagan.

In November 1970, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) criticised Dr. Condon's recommendations and urged renewed scientific study of UFOs. In particular, the Institute said it "strongly feels that, from a scientific and engineering standpoint, it is unacceptable to simply ignore substantial numbers of unexplained observations and to close the book about them on the basis of premature conclusions". Clearly, the file of the UFO phenomenon is far from being closed!

9. ARE GOVERNMENTS INTERESTED?

The answer to this question depends on whether the enquirer means the public or the secret interest of Governmental agencies. This distinction is valid and important. All the available evidence indicates that both the British and the American Governments (i.e. air defence intelligences) possess much more information about the UFO phenomenon and treat the subject far more seriously than is publicly known. Military and service personnel and air defence networks are likely to be the source of many publicly unknown reports and encounters.

The British Ministry of Defence (MoD) treats the UFO reports from members of the public on a very low priority basis as there are no funds, equipment or qualified persons available to investigate such reports. A spokesman for the MoD states that the MoD's interest is limited to any air defence implications. However, for reports from service personnel (e.g. pilots), Air Traffic Control Supervisors are required to complete a detailed UFO questionnaire issued by the MoD.

The U.S. Air Force has had a much lengthier and more publicised involvement with UFOs and first began investigating UFO reports in 1947, the Chief of Air Technical Intelligence informed the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Air Force that he concluded that UFOs were real. Since that time, the U.S. Air Force has issued successive conflicting policy statements concerning UFOs.

The following is a brief chronological summary of past developments in the U.S.A.:-

- 1947 - 1949: Serious investigation, conclusions UFOs real and interplanetary.
- 1950 - 1951: These conclusions challenged on basis of lack of proof; "explain-away" approach adopted by investigators.

- 1952 - 1953: After review of situation, new serious investigation started; evidence uncovered led many high-ranking officers to conclude UFOs were interplanetary.
- 1954 - 1964: Evidence again challenged as "proof", this time by panel of scientists. Conflicting versions of whether expanded investigation was recommended (and adopted) to obtain more data. Public relations programme adopted to assure public UFOs posed no danger, or threat to national security.
- 1966 - Public clamour over a spate of UFO sightings lead to the commissioning by the U.S. Air Force of the Colorado Project headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon.
- 1968 - Two top scientists leave Colorado Project and voice criticism that Dr. Condon is being negative and biased. "LOOK" magazine described Project as a "fiasco".
- 1968 - Congressional hearing on UFOs - House of Representatives' Science and Astronautics Committee.
- 1969 - Dr. Condon reports and concludes that UFOs do not deserve further scientific attention and U.S. Air Force UFO investigation centre (Project Blue Book) is closed down.
- 1970 - UFOs continue to be reported and civilian scientific interest increases.
- 1971 - Dr. J. Allen Hynek writes an open letter to his scientific colleagues in "PHYSICS TODAY" offering to form a receipt centre for undisclosed UFO Reports that otherwise would almost certainly be lost to science.
- 1972 - Dr. Hynek publishes his book - The UFO EXPERIENCE - urging scientific attention to the UFO problem.
- 1973 - Dr. Hynek founds a 'CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES' in Illinois to act as a form of 'clearing-house' and 'examination center' for UFO reports worldwide.
- 1974 - Dr. Harley Rutledge and his team make one of the most highly instrumented researches ever into localised UFO activity and conclude that 'UFOs are propelled by an unknown power' and 'seem at times to have intelligent control'

The Governments of many other countries have taken UFOs seriously at one time or another. The U.S.S.R. set up an 18 man UFO Commission in November 1967 following hundreds of UFO reports from all over Russia. However, 4 months later it was announced that the Commission had been disbanded without making its promised report publicly known. The announcement effectively "warned off" independent Russian Scientists from pursuing the subject further.

The National Research Council of Canada has for many years recorded and made limited investigations of Canadian UFO reports. Unlike the British reports, these Canadian reports and files are open to public inspection.

In recent years, various South American Governments have officially investigated the many UFO reports emanating from their respective countries.

Both the British MoD and the U.S. Air Force state that about 10% of UFO reports which they receive from the public cannot be satisfactorily explained. The analysis of British reports by the MoD for the period from 1959 - 1970 is as follows:-

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1959 TO 31st DECEMBER 1970

UFO Reports officially made to Ministry of Defence by Members of the Public

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteorological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Miscellaneous	Unexplained (Insufficient Information)	Total
1959	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	22
1960	-	8	2	7	10	1	3	31
1961	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	71
1962	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	46
1963	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	51
1964	43	3	6	-	10	7	5	74
1965	27	3	3	2	7	-	14	56
1966	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	95
1967	57	42	26	19	150	22	46	362
1968	65	10	36	3	114	30	22	280
1969	37	9	27	19	101	17	18	228
1970	9	8	31	16	97	5	15	181
Total	322	119	154	110	538	115	139	1497

Note: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes, the reflection of lights on cloud, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures and photographic aberrations. Approximately 9% of these reports remain unexplained to the present date.

10. MAJOR THEORIES

There are three groups of theories which purport to account for the existence of UFOs, excluding the view which ascribed all UFO reports to hoaxes or to mis-identified manmade artifacts or natural phenomena. We will consider briefly each of these groups in turn.

1. EXTRA-TERRSTRIAL. This is the view which assumes that the UFOs are space-ships from elsewhere, in our solar system or beyond it. The general public seems to be unaware of any other possibility than this and it has a large following among UFO students and researchers. It must be said that there has been a marked weakening of support for it in recent years, especially among experienced and advanced students.

2. TERRESTRIAL. In its simplest form this view ascribes the manufacture of UFOs to Russia, the United States, Britain or some other Power and it is only fair to state that a few UFO sightings may well relate to prototype aircraft of unusual design and missiles on the 'Secret' List. A few theorists have speculated that the UFOs may represent a sophisticated development of the wartime V-7, operated by a secret remnant of Nazis based in Antarctica or South America.

Some consider that the UFOs are built and operated by surviving descendants of a 'First Wave' of terrestrial civilisation, which, it is assumed, perfected aerial and possibly even space flight. Variants of this idea drag in 'detrimental robots' dwelling in caverns beneath the earth, or heirs of the Lost Continent of Atlantis. Or could the ufonauts be Time-travellers?

3. PSYCHIC & PSYCHOLOGICAL. The late Dr. C.G. Jung thought that UFOs might be psychic projections from the collective unconscious, stirred into activity by the stresses of the Atomic Age. A French professor has postulated a 'UFO psychosis' among a large section of the population.

Other schools of thought have ascribed UFOs to the spirits of the dead, 'elementals' and inhabitants of other dimensions.

It will be clear from the foregoing there is no shortage of theories to account for UFO manifestations. BUFORA is not committed to any specific notion of UFO origin and welcomes exponents of all schools of thought on the matter not wholly out of accord with the observational evidence and recognises the following working hypotheses:-

1. That the sightings involve misidentifications of objects which are man made or natural and are well known to experts.
2. That the sightings involve man made devices known only to their inventors
3. That the sighting reports are hoaxes or involve fabrications
4. That the sightings involve natural events which are not observed often enough for scientists to have produced suitable scientific explanations
5. That the sightings are mental projections by, or received by, the witnesses
6. That the sightings involve devices produced by one or more alien advanced technologies which originate:
 - (A) Elsewhere in our Universe, being i) Within our Solar system
ii) Within our Galaxy
iii) Beyond our Galaxy
 - OR (B) In a universe which is not obvious to us using conventional techniques, and which is
 - i) Parallel to ours in space and time
 - ii) Parallel to ours in space but NOT time
 - iii) Parallel to ours in time but NOT space
7. That the sightings are of intelligent processes beyond our space-time continuum and not explicable in any of the above categories.

BUFORA is working on the assumption that the UFO reports made to us are mainly in category 1, with a small percentage belonging to categories 2 - 5, but that a FEW PER CENT OF ALL REPORTS are consistent with hypotheses 6 and/or 7.

Whilst it is true that many of BUFORA's members are interested in category 6A, BUFORA's research department welcomes constructive articles and research proposals from anyone whose major interests lie within any of the other categories.

11. ADVICE TO WITNESSES

Every year, throughout the world, thousands of ordinary men and women are startled by events in the air, and sometimes on the ground, which are outside the normal range of their experience. These events may range from the faintly interesting, through the stimulating and provocative, to the harrowing and frankly frightening.

Any one of us may, without warning, find ourselves faced with such an event, and, if inadequately prepared either mentally or physically, may lose the opportunity of obtaining vital information. In such an event, then, what should we do? Suppose, for example, you were picnicking in the country and, looking idly into the sky, you were startled to see an apparently enormous, shining, circular craft hovering noiselessly high above you (whether the craft really existed, or not, this has been the experience of more than one family in recent years) - then take the following deliberate steps:

- (i) shake your head and blink - then turn and see if the object is still there;
- (ii) examine it carefully for as long as is necessary to memorise the essential details, then try to get at least one more witness, if this can be done quickly;
- (iii) whether you succeed or not in getting another witness, make a sketch of the object, and its surroundings, in as much detail as possible;
- (iv) if you are fortunate to have a camera without, take as many pictures as you can, with varying exposures, before you make a sketch. But make the sketch, afterwards, as the film may not be satisfactory;
- (v) hold several coins at arm's length and record which one just covers the object - this will give an estimate of size if the distance is known;
- (vi) write down as many facts about the event as possible, at the site; facts such as time, place, direction, angle in the sky from the horizontal, shape, colour, motion, weather conditions, wind strength and direction, position of sun (or moon), and all other relevant factors;
- (vii) watch the event for as long as you can, and then pay particular attention to the manner in which it phases out or disappears.
- (viii) as soon as possible after the event, telephone or write to an officer of BUFORA, preferably the National Investigations Co-ordinator, stating when and where you would be available for interview. Please do not call the Press, in the first instance, as the fear of ridicule may inhibit other vital witnesses from coming forward in support of your observations. BUFORA will always preserve the anonymity of a witness, if desired.

The chances of your participating in a really significant event are, of course, extremely remote, but if you are interested in helping BUFORA in its research, then be prepared; on excursions into the country carry a camera, binoculars, compass and notebook - and LOOK UP. Most people look down.

12. QUOTES

1. COMMANDER ROBERT B. McCLAUGHLIN
U.S. Navy missile expert - statement made in 1949:-
"Many times I have seen flying discs following and overtaking missiles in flight at the experimental base at White Sands, New Mexico, where - as is known - the first American atom bomb was tried out."
2. EX-PRESIDENT TRUMAN
Press Conference, 4th April, 1950:-
"I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on earth."
3. GENERAL JOHNSON
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense, 4th August, 1950:-
"If we knew who constructed Flying Saucers we would gladly order a few squadrons."
4. GENERAL JOHN SAMFORD
Former Director of Intelligence U.S. Air Force. Press Conference, 29th July, 1952:-
"However, there have remained a percentage of the total, in the order of 20% of the reports, that have come from credible observers of relatively incredible things."
5. AIR CHIEF MARSHAL LORD DOWDING, R.A.F.
Quoted by Reuters, August 1954:-
"Of course the flying saucers are real - and they are interplanetary. The existence of these machines is evident, and I have accepted them absolutely. The cumulative evidence for the existence of UFOs, is quite overwhelming and I accept the fact of their existence."
6. GENERAL L.M. CHASSIN
Former General Air Defence Co-ordinator, Allied Air Force, Central Europe (NATO):-
"For if we persist in refusing to recognise the existence of these unidentified objects, we will end up, one fine day, by mistaking them for the guided missiles of an enemy, and the worst will be upon us." (Extract from his Preface to Aime Michel's book - Flying Saucers and The Straight Line Mystery).

7. **PROFESSOR J. ALLEN HYNEK**
Scientific Consultant to the U.S. Air Force, Chairman, Department of Astronomy and Director of Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University.
Extract from his Foreward to Vallee's book - "Challenge to Science" first published in 1967:-
"As a consequence of my work on the voluminous (U.S.) air force files, and to greater extent, of personal investigation of many puzzling cases and interviews with witnesses of good repute, I have long been aware that the subject of UFOs could not be dismissed as mere nonsense. Nonsense is present, to be sure, and misidentification of otherwise familiar objects that many sincere people reports as UFOs. But is there not a "signal" in the "noise", a needle in the haystack? Is it not precisely our role to try to isolate the valid from the nonsensical?"
8. **ALEXANDER TIKHONOV (USSR)**
Member of the Russian Commission formed in November 1967 to investigate UFOs - quoted in the Daily Telegraph on 14th November 1967:-
"UFOs have been seen by thousands of Russians this summer over the Crimea, the Caucasus and the Urals. The sickle-shaped object was seen by holiday makers on the Black Sea coastline. It is the strangest incident of all. We have pictures of it."
9. **DR. HERMANN OBERTH**
World-famous rocket scientist:
"I believe extra-terrestrial intelligencies are watching the Earth and have been visiting us for millenia in their Flying Saucers."

"UFO SOCIETIES AND PUBLICATIONS"

The following list is a selection of the more serious societies and publications dedicated to solving the UFO enigma. This list is far from complete and it is worth remarking that there are 20 or more local groups and societies in the United Kingdom alone many of whom produce their own journal or newsletter. Names and addresses of member societies of BUFORA may be obtained from the Hon. Subscription Secretary. Societies have varying subscription arrangements, and these often include additional benefits.

Full details should be obtained direct from the organisation (enclose an international reply coupon if writing abroad) and some publishers will supply a free sample copy on request.

Australia

Australian Flying Saucer Research Soc.
Box 1457 G.P.O. Adelaide S.A. 5001
Publication: AFSRS MAGAZINE
UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC)
P.O. Box E.170, St. James, Sydney, NSW 2000
Publication: UFOIC NEWSLETTER and AUSTRALIAN UFO REVIEW
Victoria UFO Research Soc. (VUFORS)
P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189.
Publication: AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN and AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Belgium

Societe Belge d'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux (SOBEPS)
Boulevard Aristide Briand, 26, 1070 Brussels
Publication: INFOPESPACE and SOBEPS NEWS

Canada

Publication (only)
CANADIAN UFO REPORT
Box 758, Duncan, British Columbia V9L 3Y1

Denmark

Skandinavisk UFO Information (SUFOI)
Ingstrup Alle 35, 2770 Kastrup
Publication: UFO-NYT

Finland

Interplanetisitt ry-Interplanetisterna rf
Postilokero 10101,
Helsinki 10
Publication: VIMANA

France

Groupe d'Etude des Objets Spatiaux de France (GEOS)
77 Saint-Denis-les-Rebais
Publication: OURANOS
Groupement d'Etude de Phenomenes Aeriens et d'Objets Spatiaux Insolites (GEPA)
69 Rue de la Tombe-Issore, Paris 14e
Publication: PHENOMENES SPATIAUX
Union des Groupement Espiologiques de France (UGEf)
51 rue des Alpes,
Valence (Drome) 26
Publication: CIEL INSOLITE

Publication (only) LUMIERES DANS LA NUIT
Les Pins, 43 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon

Germany

Deutsche UFO/IFO Studiengesellschaft (DUIST)
62 Wiesbaden-Schierstein,
Postfach 17185
Publication: UFO NACHRICHTEN

Holland

Nederlands Onderzoek Bureau voor Ongeïdentificeerde (NOBOVO)
Aquamarijnstraat 115, Groningen
Publication TIJDSCHRIFT VOOR UFOLOGIE

Italy

Centro Unico Nazionale
Casella Postale 796
40100 Bologna
Publication: UFO NOTIZARIO

JAPAN

Japan UFO Research Association
c/o Tomezo Hirata
2-2-7 Uozaki-Nakamachi
Higashi-Nadu-Ku, Kobe
Publication: JUFORA JOURNAL

NEW ZEALAND

Publication (only) SPACEVIEW
P.O. Box 21007, Henderson

SPAIN

Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios (CEI)
Apartado Correos 282
Barcelona
Publication: STENDEK

UNITED KINGDOM

British UFO Research Association (BUFORA)
6 Cairn Avenue, London W.5.
Publication: BUFORA JOURNAL

Contact UK,
19, Cumnor Road, Wootton, Boar's Hill,
Nr Oxford.

Publication: AWARENESS

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

F.S.R. Publications Ltd.,
West Malling, Kent.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO)
3910 East Kleindale Road,
Tucson,
Arizona 85712

Publication: APRO BULLETIN

Midwest UFO Network (MUFON)

103, Oldtowne Road,
Sequin, Texas 78155

Publication: SKYLOOK

National Investigations Committee on
Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)

3535 University BLVD West,
Suite 23 Kensington,
Maryland 20795 USA

Publication: UFO INVESTIGATOR

Publication (only)

OFFICIAL UFO

Countrywide Publications Inc.
257, Park Avenue South,
New York 10010

Publication (only)

UFO REPORT

333, Johnson Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York 11206

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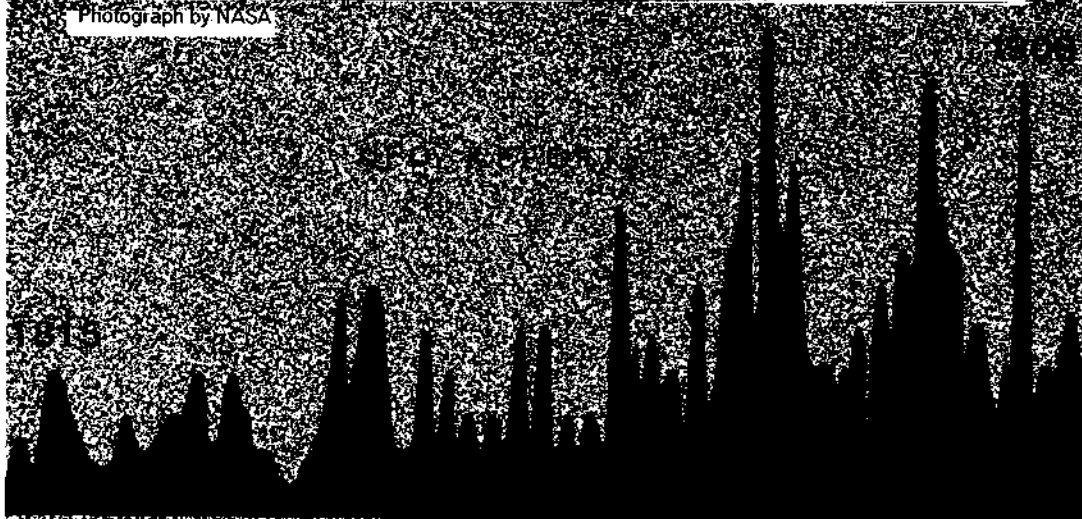
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The British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association



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